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Transmitted via Email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 450-8-2

**SUBJECT: TCH – COMPUTER ASSISTANCE TO PARTNERS ON NON-CCE  
WORKSTATIONS**

**Purpose.** To provide guidance for agency assistance with non-CCE workstations.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2008.

NRCS has recently instituted a national process for the transfer of computer-related costs from the Agency's national budget to each state's budget. Beginning in FY2009 Minnesota NRCS will have budget responsibility for all CCE workstations and related costs including software, internet access and technical support. One of the results of this major policy change is that we will also be changing our traditional arrangement on computer access and use with our partners.

Each ASTC (FO) has already contacted our partners that use CCE workstations and developed an Area strategy to implement this policy. The end result is that some of our partners have decided to seek alternative computer arrangements and Minnesota will have fewer working CCE workstations than in the past.

Another outcome of this policy change is that NRCS computer-related assistance to partners will be limited to those actions tied to CCE workstations. NRCS will not be providing assistance or take on the additional work, cost, and responsibility of installing and monitoring software to include ESRI GIS software on non-CCE workstations. There are several reasons involved with this decision including:

- The loading of all software products used on CCE workstations is completed and monitored by ITS, not NRCS.
- NRCS has not hired or authorized staff to perform these tasks. This work is clearly the responsibility of ITS.
- Non-CCE workstations are not intended to perform NRCS-related work.
- Partners recently had to make decisions on their future use of CCE workstations. NRCS fully supports those decisions.

One of the strengths of our Minnesota conservation partnership is the ability to adapt to change and remain focused on our joint mission of protecting our state's natural resources. As we implement this new computer policy, please reassure your local partners that NRCS remains committed to our conservation partnership and its mission.

Questions on the information and policy guidance in this bulletin should be directed to your ASTC (FO).

/s/

**WILLIAM HUNT**  
State Conservationist

**DIST: AO**  
**FO**  
**RC&D**  
Tom Radermacher, ITS, St. Paul, MN

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